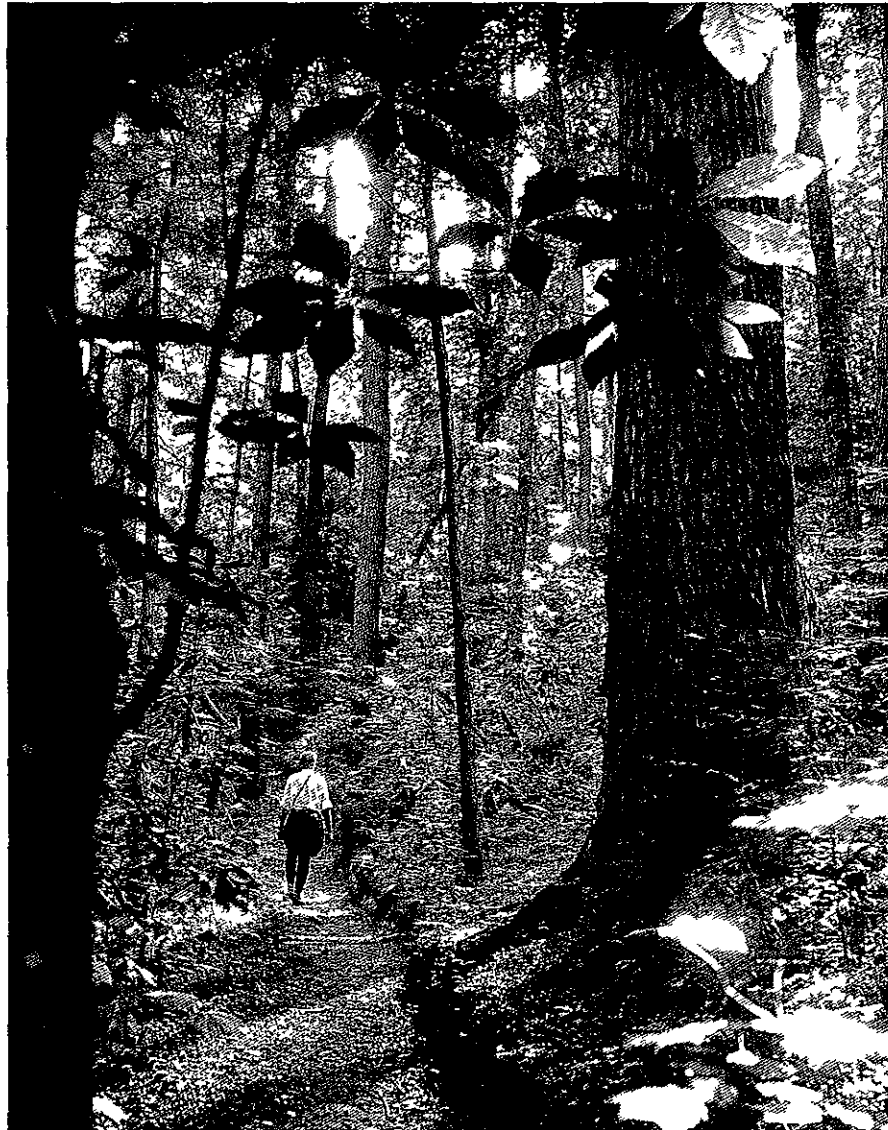


United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service  
Southern Region



# Highlights of the Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment 5



**Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests  
North Carolina**

# Dear friends of the forest:

After more than three years of work — meetings, field sessions, countless conversations, and thousands of letters — we are proud to release this forest plan amendment for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests.

This highlights document gives you an overview of our new plan and how we responded to the issues you brought before us.

This amendment combines what we heard from you with the best science, which is the basis for all good resource management. New approaches chartered in this amendment include:

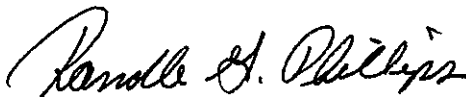
- ◆ applying principles of landscape-level management that move the forests forward in ecosystem management;
- ◆ fostering old growth forests, habitat for neo-tropical birds, and biodiversity,
- ◆ providing a wood product supply that is sustainable and cost-effective over time; reducing the need for clearcutting;
- ◆ and focusing on maintaining the forests' natural beauty, characteristic of western North Carolina.

The Forest Service faced some tough decisions in this amendment. Even though this decision involved over a million acres of public land, we could not make decisions that would meet everyone's needs and ensure the land's future health and productivity. Certainly, not everyone will agree with our decisions.

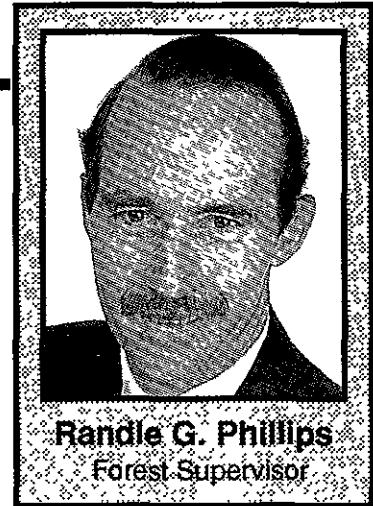
Any forest plan is only a framework for future decision making. We invite you to participate with us as we plan, implement, and monitor projects that bring the forest plan to life.

Protecting and managing these national forests is important work, and this amendment will affect people across the state and nation. You played a vital role in helping us carry out this mission. We look forward to building upon our relationship and invite your continued advice on management issues concerning the National Forests in North Carolina.

Sincerely,



RANDLE G. PHILLIPS  
Forest Supervisor





# Where we're headed in managing forests

# ECOSYSTEM

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# MANAGEMENT

This plan amendment is the first step toward using ecosystem management — an approach aimed at meeting society's demands for forests that are not only useful and productive, but diverse, healthy, and beautiful. This approach steps back from the forest stand to view the broader picture of the landscape.

Central to this approach is a view of forests as a complex puzzle of plants, animals, people, soil, water, nutrients, and air. In ecosystem management, the Forest Service will look at all the pieces of this puzzle when managing the land.

A primary purpose of ecosystem management is to sustain the levels of all resources over time.

## STEPS WE'VE TAKEN

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The plan amendment for Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests moves forest management from where it was in the 1987 plan toward greater emphasis on conserving biodiversity and maintaining aesthetic values.

“  
*...implement management strategies that truly conserve biodiversity and maintain aesthetic values — while producing needed commodities;*  
”

*Dr. Jack Ward Thomas*  
Chief, USDA Forest Service

“

*When we see the land as  
a community to which  
we belong, we may  
begin to use it with love  
and respect.*

”

*Aldo Leopold*  
*A Sand County Almanac*

Commodity production will be at a level compatible with these goals.

Important steps in conserving biodiversity are the new directions to establish future old growth and forest interior areas and recovery of threatened and endangered species. Providing areas of young forest for species, such as grouse and deer, is also an important part of ecosystem management.

New objectives for the scenery along the Appalachian Trail and Blue Ridge Parkway will result in more pleasant views for the millions of visitors.

As the forest plan for Nantahala and Pisgah is revised in 1997, we will further emphasize the ecosystem management approach.





# HIGHLIGHTS DOCUMENT: ..... WHAT IT IS AND ISN'T

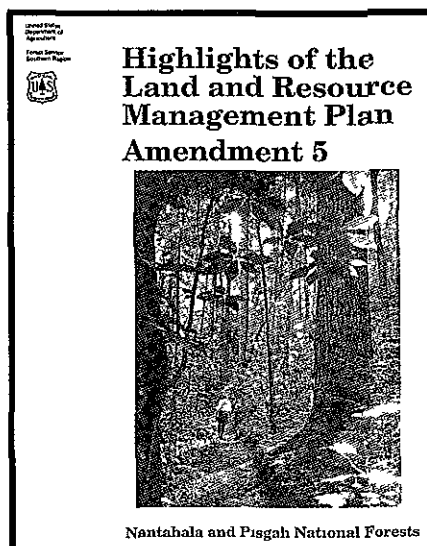
■ The **highlights document** outlines the major elements of the plan amendment for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. Our intent is to give you a highlight of major issues and our response to these issues. (Length: 20 pages)

■ Most of you will receive the record of decision along with this highlights document. In the **record of decision**, the decisionmaker explains why he decided on the plan amendment as the new direction for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. (Length: 40 pages)

For many people, the information contained in this highlights document and record of decision may be enough. Others may like more detail. In this case, you may request the following documents:

■ The **plan amendment** outlines the management direction for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. This document contains the goals, desired future conditions, management area descriptions, directions, and standards that will be implemented over the next 5 to 10 years. This is the document the Forest Service uses to manage the national forests. (Length: 320 pages)

■ The **final supplement to the final environmental impact statement - Volume I** provides analysis of alternatives to the 1987 forest plan. This document fulfills the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. It contains the issues addressed; the alternatives considered; the



current condition of forest resources; and the effects alternatives would have on resources. Since the document follows legal procedures and guidelines, the writing is technical. (Length: 300 pages)

■ The **final supplement to the final environmental impact statement - Volume II** contains the appendices for the environmental analyses of alternatives. These appendices include technical information on: the timber re-

sources and economics; Wilderness Study Areas; threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; and detailed response to public comments. The writing is technical, because the supplement provides the supporting documentation for conclusions drawn in Volume I. (Length: 410 pages)

We sent most of you the highlights document, record of decision, and maps. Much of this information should be of interest to you. Because of the large volume and mailing expense of other documents, we did not send them to you. However, we will be happy to furnish copies at your request.

**To order additional documents, please fill out and mail the form on the back inside page of this highlights document.**





# Pisgah, Nantahala National Forests: a bounty of natural resources

The Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests are two of over 150 national forests across the country. Located in the mountains of western North Carolina, the forests contain more than one million acres.

The forest communities range from dry yellow pines to a variety of moist cove and upland oak forests, to high-elevation northern hardwood and spruce-fir forests. About 1,900 types of plants and 300 to 400 species of vertebrate animals are found within the forests.

The Pisgah National Forest was established in 1916, and the Nantahala National Forest was

founded in 1920.

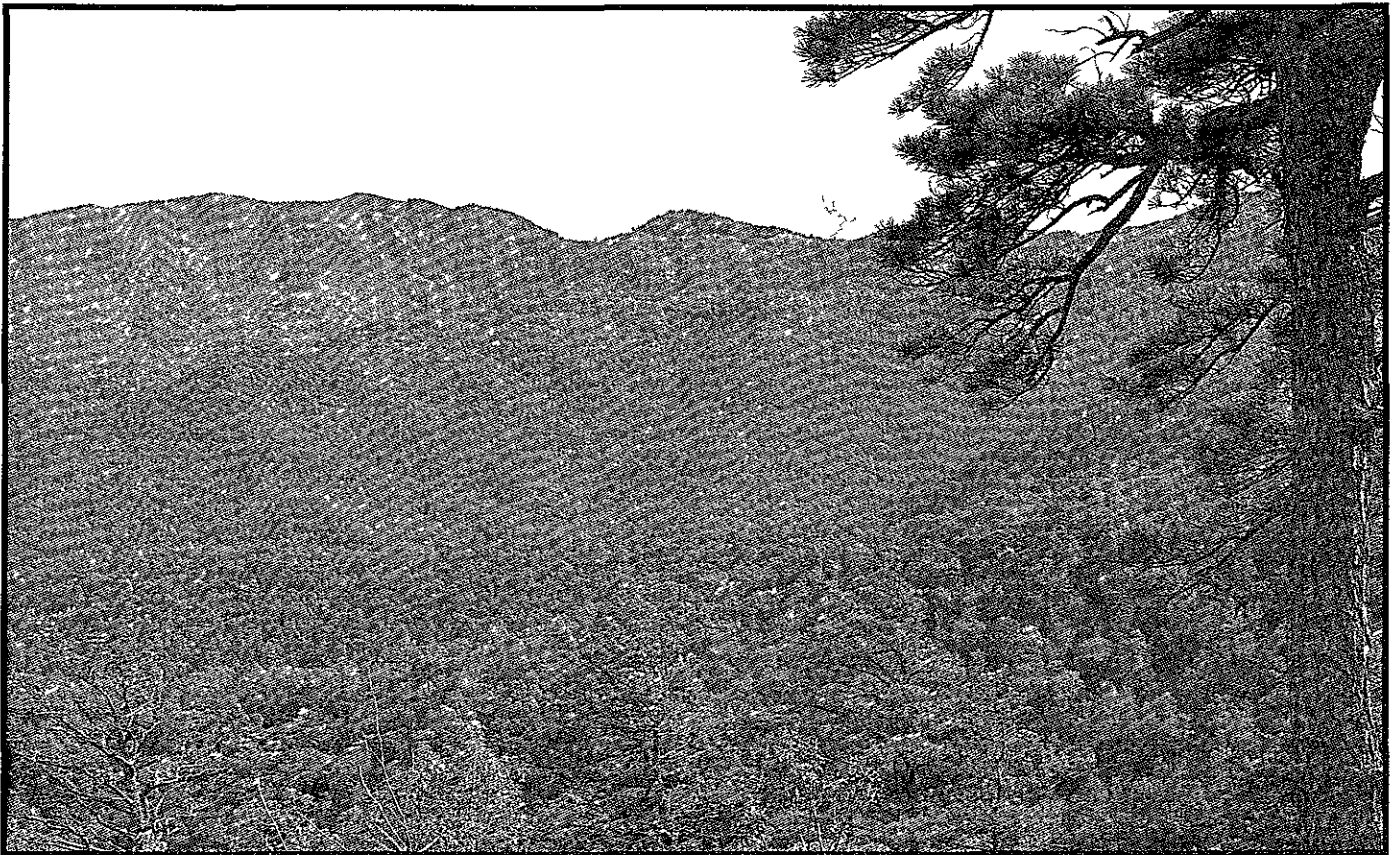
The forests are dynamic and ever changing. Time changes the forest environment as well as its uses. The hunters and woodcutters who traditionally used the forests are now joined by hikers, campers, mountain bikers, photographers, bird-watchers, rock climbers, and people driving through the forest to view scenery.

During Fiscal Year 1993, the National Forests in North Carolina, of which the Nantahala and Pisgah make up over one million of the 1.2 million acres, provided these goods and services.

*(Please see next page)*

**“**  
*It is the policy of Congress that the national forests are established and shall be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife purposes.*  
**”**

*Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960*





# BENEFITS OF NATIONAL FORESTS: FY '93

## Nantahala-Pisgah-Uwharrie-Croatan Recreation

Recreation Visitors Served	20+ million
Miles of Trail	1,700+
Developed campgrounds	34
Picnic Areas	43

## Timber

Timber Offered	56+ million board feet
Lands Reforested	4,400+ acres
Timber Stand Improvements	3,600+ acres

## Watershed

Watershed Restored/Improved	200+ acres
Water Resources Inventoried	13,400 acres

## Wildlife & Fish

Wildlife Habitat Improved	1,490+ acres
Fish Habitat Improved	70 acres
T&E Habitat Improved	2,550+ acres

## Lands

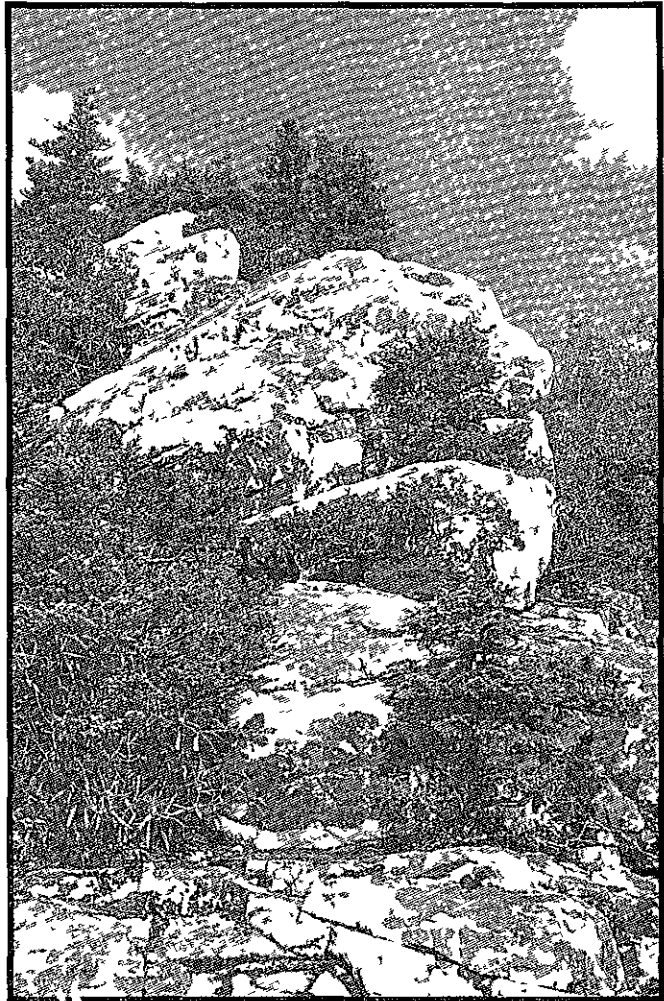
Purchase and Acquisition	2,046 acres
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## Soil & Water

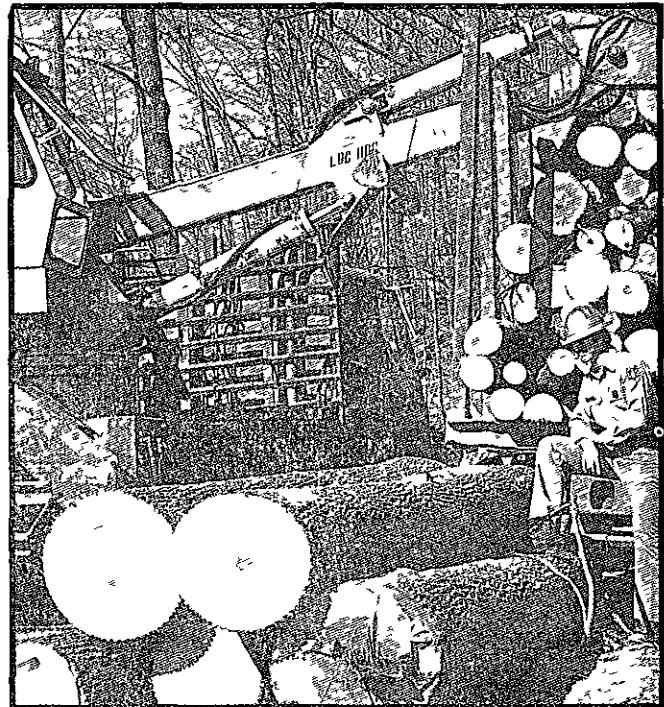
Resource Improvement	175 acres
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## Human Resource Program

Older Americans	350+
Volunteers	4,000+
Job Corps Students	396



These quartz-filled, rock outcroppings offer visitors spectacular vistas of rolling mountains.



Harvesting high-quality hardwood provides jobs.



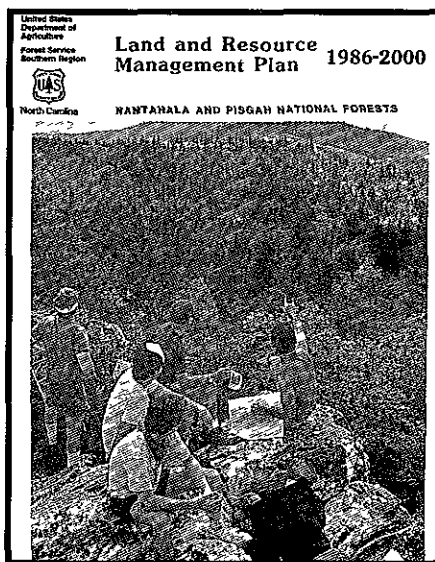
# BACKGROUND:

## WHAT THE CHIEF SAID

The role of a forest plan is to give broad, general direction on managing national forests. Key components of a forest plan are: goals and objectives, forestwide direction and standards, management area direction and standards, and monitoring.

Our first forestwide natural resource direction came in the 1987 plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. In designing management strategies, we used an integrated approach — a method that involves specialties like biology, recreation, and timber in the decision-making process. We designed management strategies that allowed compatible natural resource uses on the same land. The location of management areas are shown on the enclosed map.

Planning decisions are based on analysis. Several interest groups challenged the 1987 plan and requested the Forest Service Chief to have the plan revised. The Chief agreed to some of the interest groups' points, and this plan amendment is a result of the re-analysis.



### The Chief directed us to:

- 1.** Develop alternatives that do not rely primarily on clearcutting or other forms of even-aged timber management.
- 2.** More fully explain the reasons for expanding a timber program, if future costs exceed revenues. (MacCleery Decision)
- 3.** Use the latest available information on recent timber price trends.
- 4.** Explain how plant and animal indicator species were selected. Evaluate how each alternative would affect the

quality and quantity of habitat and overall population trends for these indicator species.

**5.** Provide more guidance on how all threatened and endangered species on the forest will be protected.

**6.** Show how much old growth forest occurs on the forest, where it is, and how much we are likely to have in the future.

**7.** Provide more information about plant and animal habitat diversity, including historical forest conditions.

**8.** Estimate future changes in plant and animal diversity in the forests' five wilderness study areas.

We have focused the major part of our re-analysis on these eight points. Our suggested response to each point can be found in the plan amendment and environmental impact statement.







# WHAT WE HEARD FROM YOU

Public interest remained high in this plan amendment. Literally thousands wrote letters, attended meetings, or otherwise voiced their opinions about how the National Forests in North Carolina should be managed.

Last year the Forest Service received more than 2,500 letters responding to the draft for this amendment. A team of forest employees analyzed these letters and identified over 8,000 distinct comments and suggestions. The following table sorts these comments into eight broad categories.



The forest planning team reviewed these comments and organized them into over 100 key-interest areas. Detailed responses to all these key interests are contained in an appendix to the environmental impact statement accompanying the plan amendment.

Much of the public comment focuses on the forests' timber program. Many expressed concern about below-cost timber sales, and they felt that timber harvesting on steep, unroaded areas might adversely affect other

and criticized the Forest Service's way of estimating the timber program's cost and benefits. They pointed out recently increased timber prices and suggested that we use the latest available information.

Many expressed concern about protecting the forests' recreation and scenic resources. They suggested that we declare all 214,000 acres of the Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized recreation area inventory as unsuitable for timber production.

Others supported the Wilderness Society's "North Carolina Mountain Treasures" proposal to prohibit logging and road building in 35 areas totalling 323,000 acres. Another major interest was maintaining the rich diversity of plants and animals on the forests. Many recommended that old growth forests be maintained. Others cited the need to provide early successional habitat for a variety of species, such as deer, turkey, and grouse.

forest resources. A number opposed clearcutting and suggested reductions in the amount of timber sold from national forests.

Others stressed the importance of timber jobs to the economy of western North Carolina

Category	No. of Comments
forest timber program.....	4,250
recreation and wildlands.....	1,608
ecosystem management.....	1,118
roads.....	544
general comments.....	371
management areas and alternatives.....	195
soil/water/air.....	32
non-planning topics.....	203





# HOW WE RESPONDED

This amendment is our best effort at addressing public concerns, integrating the best science, and managing these public lands for the future. Some difficult choices had to be made.

One choice was the future direction for our timber program. Overall, less national forest timber will be available to the people who bought or used timber from us in the past.

However, our judgment is that 34 million board feet a year is what we can sustain while meeting multiple resource objectives and responding to national direction to reduce below-cost timber sales in today's market conditions.

We will emphasize growing trees for high-quality sawtimber, an increasingly scarce commodity in western North Carolina.

We recognize that public forest lands have an important role in sustaining a diverse

**“  
...where conflict-  
ing interests must  
be reconciled the  
question will  
always be  
decided from the  
standpoint of the  
greatest good to  
the greatest  
number in the  
long run.  
”**

*Gifford Pinchot  
First Chief,  
USDA Forest Service*

economy. All these forest resources — recreation, wildlife, water, minerals, and timber — are economically important to western North Carolina.

With this amendment, we put greater emphasis on maintaining the forests' scenic qualities. Two-aged management and selection harvests, which take the place of clearcutting, generally have less impact on scenery. We added new guidelines to ensure views are adequately protected along the Blue Ridge Parkway and Appalachian Trail. We allocated most of the existing Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized recreation inventory to management areas that do not include commercial timber harvesting.

We took the first steps in applying ecosystem management principles on the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. We set explicit goals for distributing future old growth across the forests.

We also identified areas on the forests where we will manage for a continuous tree canopy. Many consider these unfragmented forest patches as optimum habitat for certain neotropical migratory birds. We developed new standards to guide the amount and distribution of early successional habitat.

This highlights document covers only a few of the changes we made in response to public comments and our most recent analysis. For those interested in more specific information, please see the amendment and the accompanying environmental impact statement.



# HOW WE ALLOCATED LAND

The Forest Plan outlines what part of the forest will fall into each of the different management areas. Each management area is associated with a different mix of multiple-uses and management directions. Some management areas are intensively used and managed, while others receive relatively little use and change occurs naturally.

The plan amendment deals only with Management Areas 1-5. Below is a brief statement about each management area:

**1B . . .** Manage for a sustainable supply of timber and provide motorized access into the forest for traditional uses.

**2A . . .** Manage to provide pleasant scenery along roads or lakeshores for people driving or boating for pleasure. Design timber management activities to maintain pleasant scenery.

**2C . . .** Same as above, but without timber management.

**3B . . .** Manage for a sustainable supply of timber with limited motorized access. Provide habitat preferred by wild turkey, small mammals, and other compatible species. Offer recreation opportunities, such as hiking and hunting.

**4A . . .** Provide a remote forest setting mostly closed to motor vehicles. Manage for high-quality scenery. Design timber management activities for these conditions.

**4C . . .** Provide a remote forest setting mostly closed to motor vehicles. No timber management



**4D . . .** Provide a remote forest setting, mostly closed to motor vehicles. Manage for high-quality wildlife habitat, such as preferred habitat for black bear. Design timber management activities for these conditions.

**5 . . .** Provide large blocks of forest backcountry with little evidence of human activities. No timber management.

# 250,000 acres change to new management areas

In total, over 250,000 acres changed from one management area to another. The resulting shift in acres is shown below:

Management Area	1987 Plan	Amendment
1B	59,253	38,498
2A	44,391	40,642
2C	43,297	37,680
3B	268,778	232,873
4A	35,979	55,604
4C	158,594	179,992
4D	175,183	160,080
5	79,587	119,685

*The greatest single change is the 40,000-acre increase in Management Area 5.*

## No changes occur to some areas

These management areas were not affected by this amendment:

- 6... Wilderness Study Areas (8,419 acres)
- 7... Wilderness (66,550 acres)
- 8... Experimental Forests (12,520 acres)
- 9... Roan Mountain (7,900 acres)
- 10... Research Natural Areas (1,460 acres)

- 11... Cradle of Forestry (6,540 acres)
- 12... Developed recreation areas (3,030 acres)
- 13... Special interest areas (10,370 acres)
- 14... Appalachian Trail and corridor (12,450 acres)
- 15... Wild and scenic river and corridor (2,050 acres)
- 16... Administrative facility site (1,260 acres)
- 17... Balds (3,880 acres)
- 18... Riparian areas (101,530 acres of stream side zone throughout all management areas)

# FOCUSING ON SCENIC BEAUTY

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**T**hroughout our plan re-analysis, we heard a continuing public concern for maintaining the scenic qualities of our mountain forests. Much of the opposition to clearcutting focused on the visual impacts. This amendment proposes a number of

changes that should maintain a scenic forest environment.

Our reduction in the use of clearcutting will have the greatest effect. As we rely more on two-aged management and selection systems, our timber activities should be less noticeable to the forest visitor.

We identified about 320,000 acres as visually sensitive, because of the lands' proximity and visibility from roads, trails, recreation sites, and adjacent communities. We shifted some areas, particularly those seen from the Blue Ridge Parkway and Appalachian Trail, to management areas that provide greater degrees of scenery protection.

At a project level, we will continue to utilize landscape architects and computer-assisted analysis to ensure that our management activities lie lightly on the land and fully meet our visual-quality objectives.

“

*The national forests provide a scenic backdrop for mountain communities in the area.*

”

*Melinda McWilliams  
Landscape Architect*





# A unique recreation experience in backcountry:

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## SPNM areas

An important public concern is how management area changes would affect recreation opportunities in the mountain forests, especially in areas not modified by road building or timber harvesting.

Locations for recreation opportunities range from campgrounds and facilities accessed by roads to places that are only accessible by foot, horse, bicycle, or means other than a motor vehicle. These unroaded, undisturbed areas offer opportunities to hike, camp, hunt, fish, and observe nature away from crowds and traffic.

We inventoried these remote places and refer to them as Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM) areas. We used the following criteria to delineate them: greater than 2,000 acres; 1/2 mile or more from open roads; and no evidence of Forest Service roads.

Located across the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests are 35 of these SPNM areas, totalling 214,600 acres. These areas are shown on the enclosed map.

In deciding future management of these SPNM areas, we considered which ones had the best backcountry recreation potential. The preferred characteristics for backcountry recreation were: large blocks of land, contrasted to long, narrow, or odd shapes; topography that screens outside sights and sounds; an existing trail system or good trail potential; and opportunities for a variety of recreation activities, excluding motor vehicles.

In addition, we looked at the areas' other possible uses, such as wildlife habitat or timber production. We favored retaining SPNM acres that overlapped with compatible resources, such as old growth restoration areas, forest interior bird patches, and black bear habitat.



Under the 1987 plan, we managed about 52,000 SPNM inventory acres for possible road building and timber management. We reduced this acreage to 43,500 in the draft amendment, and in the final amendment, we lowered this amount to 29,500 acres. Forestwide, about 185,100 acres of the 214,600 SPNM acres will be placed in management areas that do not call for building roads or timber harvest.

Generally, SPNM areas remaining in timber management areas are not manageable for a high-quality backcountry experience, because of shape, location or other factors.



## RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS: ..... a haven for fish

Flowing through the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests are 3,000 miles of cold water streams. The stream and its banks, bed, and vegetation create a unique environment called the riparian ecosystem.

The riparian area is habitat for a diversity of plants and animals. One of its inhabitants — the cold water trout — is a treasured species for anglers.

Trout require several habitat components: cold water, a gravel streambed that supports waterborne insects, food, and protection from predators.

Nature provides two of these components when a tree falls into a stream. Trout can feed on the insects attracted to the tree's decaying, woody debris. The fallen tree and its limbs also provide cover for the fish.

Desired conditions for riparian areas are specified in the plan amendment. For example, we will manage for riparian conditions, which over

time will continue to supply large, woody debris in the stream.

This amendment also includes new direction to conduct detailed mapping of riparian zones and listing these areas as unsuitable for timber production.

“ ***Large woody debris in streams create a diversity of microhabitats suitable for trout and many other types of fish.*** ”

***Sheryl Bryan***  
*Fisheries Biologist*



# CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

## New direction for old growth

Few areas of the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests are accepted as true stands of eastern old growth, and most of these stands are in special areas, such as wilderness. Large areas of easily identified old growth simply do not exist in most portions of these national forests.

Located in the Nantahala and Pisgah are older forests with some degree of old growth

character. However, past land-use practices left forests with few trees that are older than 100 years. These practices included burning, clearing for agriculture, and cutting timber for wood products.

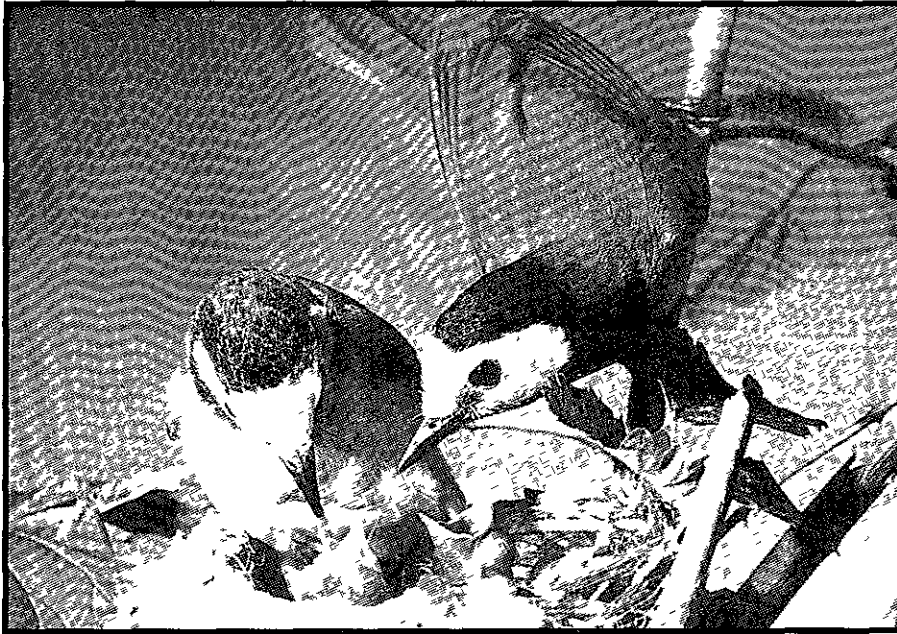
Nearly everyone recognizes that old growth is one important component of diversity. Since we don't have much existing old growth, the challenge is to plan for future areas of old growth as part of ecosystem restoration.

The amendment calls for establishing an old growth net-

work of patches: small (50+ acres), medium (200 to 1,000 acres), and large (2,500+ acres). Thirty-two large patches will be distributed across the forests.

The intent of these large patches is to restore functioning old growth ecosystems. Most patches will include areas of older forest that now have some old growth characteristics.

This new direction is a big change from the original old growth direction in the 1987 plan. The original direction only called for small patches.



## Plan emphasizes forest interior birds

Many people are concerned that neotropical migratory birds are experiencing unexplained population declines. These birds spend winter in the tropics but breed in North America. Some species appear to have the great-

est reproductive success in the forest's interior, which is away from the edge of the forest. Deep inside a forest, the birds are apparently less vulnerable to predators and parasites.

Interior edges can be created

by wide roads and large openings, such as wildlife fields and some timber regeneration activities

According to the amendment, 38 areas will be managed to maintain a closed canopy with no interior edges.

These areas will provide what many researchers believe to be the best habitat for certain species of neotropical migratory songbirds.

Ten of the 38 areas would have 7,500-acre blocks of continuous canopy, and 28 would be at least 2,500 acres in size. Many areas designated for future old growth would also serve as bird patches.



## Some animals thrive in openings

While some species do best when they live deep inside a forest, other species like the ruffed grouse thrive in a forest with openings.

To accommodate these plants and animals' needs, certain forest areas will be managed to provide a regulated amount of early successional habitat. This habitat is 10 years old or younger and has an abundance of young vegetation, succulent sprouts, and more sunlight for berries and small fruits to grow.

Not only are these areas good places for some animals to find food, but these habitats' thick undergrowth provide safe places to hide and nest.

The amendment establishes new guidelines for the minimum and maximum levels of early successional habitat provided in each watershed. The amount of this important habitat will vary depending on the specific management areas that occur in each watershed. Forestwide, at least 32,700 acres of the forest will be maintained in early successional habitat.

Eleven animals and 14 plants that occur or are likely to occur on the forests are federally listed as proposed (P), endangered (E), or threatened (T). These species are protected by the Endangered Species Act and USDA Forest Service policy. The amendment contains recovery objectives or conservation objectives for each of these species.

They are listed below:

Appalachian Elktoe Mussel	P	occurs
Red Wolf	E	extirpated
Spotfin Chub	T	occurs
American Peregrine Falcon	E	occurs
Eastern Cougar	E	may occur
Carolina Northern Flying Squirrel	E	occurs
Spruce-fir moss spider	P	may occur
Noonday Snail	T	occurs
Indiana Bat	E	occurs
Little-Wing Pearly Mussel	E	occurs
Virginia Big-eared Bat	E	may occur
Spreading Avens	E	occurs
Swamp Pink	T	occurs
Dwarf-flowered Heartleaf	T	may occur
Mountain Bluet	E	occurs
Mountain Golden-Heather	T	occurs
Small Whorled Pogonia	E	occurs
Heller's Blazing Star	T	occurs
Bunched Arrowhead	E	may occur
Mountain Sweet		
Pitcher Plant	E	may occur
Green Pitcher Plant	E	may occur
White Irisette	E	may occur
Blue Ridge Golden Rod	T	occurs
Virginia Spirea	T	occurs
Rock Gnome Lichen	P	occurs

## New analysis of bear habitat

Black bear populations are generally thought to be stable or expanding. A new black bear habitat analysis shows how much of the national forest is suitable black bear habitat, near-suitable,

and not suitable. Suitable black bear habitat has the following characteristics: minimum size, 10,000 acres; maximum amount of very young forest is 10 percent; and open-road density of .25 miles per square mile or less.

With this amendment, 23 patches of suitable bear habitat

are distributed across the national forests. The enclosed map shows these patches, along with the areas considered near-suitable, and the areas considered not suitable.

The factor most likely to make an area unsuitable is the amount of open roads.



# Future holds new harvest methods

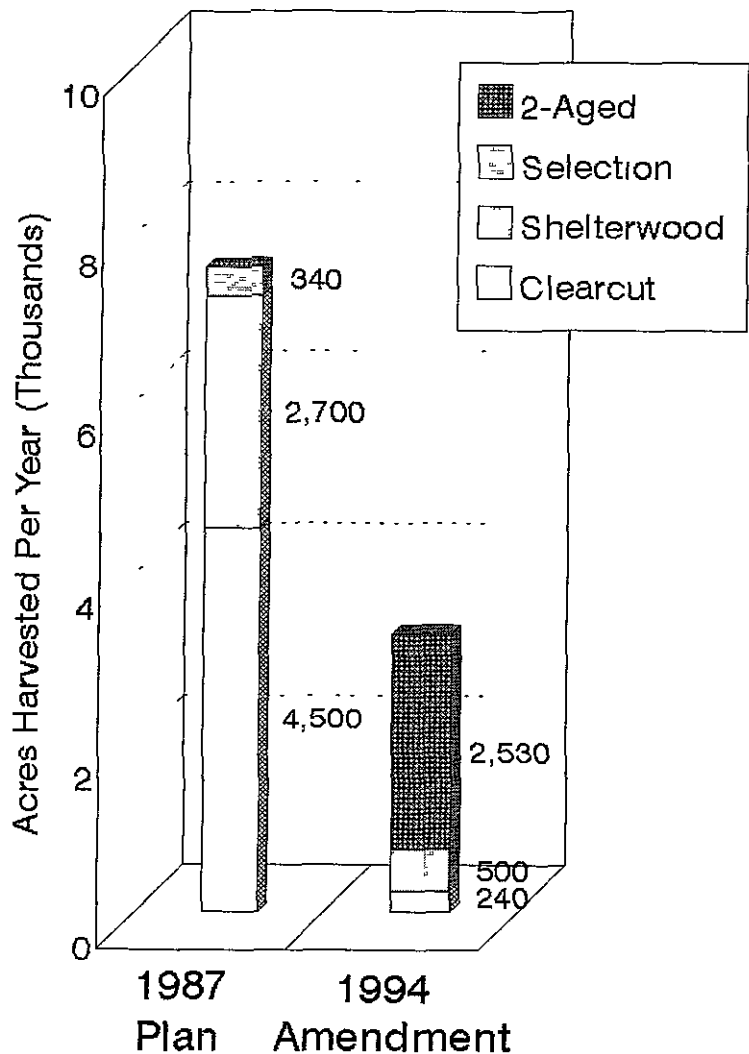
## clearcutting reduced to 240 acres

In response to national direction and public concern, we sharply reduced the use of clearcutting. The 1987 plan called for clearcutting about 4,500 acres a year, and the draft plan amendment issued last year decreased clearcutting to 1,500 acres annually. The amendment projects that about 240 acres will be clearcut annually, which is the acreage needed to regenerate shortleaf pine habitat and restore badly-damaged ecosystems. This does not include salvage from catastrophic events.

We will primarily use two-aged management and selection harvest methods. In two-aged management, a portion of the stand is left uncut in a harvested area, creating at least two ages of trees in each stand. In selection harvesting, groups of trees averaging 1-acre or less are removed.

These harvesting methods leave trees that provide important wildlife habitat components and soften the visual impacts of harvesting.

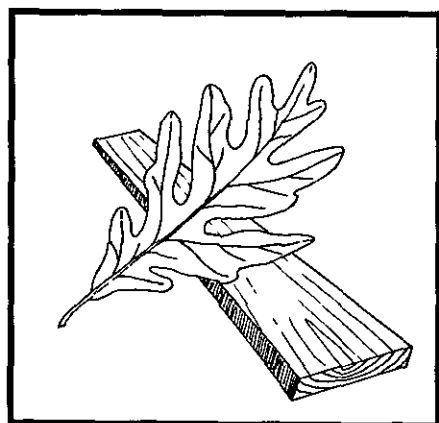
### Amendment reduces clearcutting



## Amendment stresses harvesting on productive land

The amendment zones 528,000 acres or about half the forest in management areas where timber production may occur. This acreage is down from the 586,000 acres listed in the 1987 plan.

According to this amendment, about 276,000 acres of the 528,000 timber management acres  
*(Please see next page)*



are currently available to consider for harvest.

The number of acres available to consider for timber harvest is limited by these factors: economics; rock outcrops, steep slopes, inaccessible tracts, threatened and endangered species habitat, archeological sites, riparian zones, and the need to disperse harvests over the landscape.

The amount of land available to consider for timber harvest within these management areas will be reviewed when the plan is revised in 1997.

## Amendment slates 34 MMBF available for sale each year

Over the last 15 years, the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests provided 10 to 20 percent of the total timber harvested annually in western North Carolina. From 1991 to 1993, we provided a little over 50 million board feet (MMBF) of timber per year

The 1987 plan called for an allowable sale quantity (ASQ) of 72 million board feet a year. The ASQ is the maximum amount of timber that may be sold over the plan period, expressed as an annual average. Issued last year, the draft plan amendment proposed an allowable sale quantity of 45 million board feet a year.

Under the final amendment, the forests' allowable sale quantity will be 34 million board feet annually. This amount includes 10 million board feet of high-quality hardwood sawtimber, such as northern red oak.

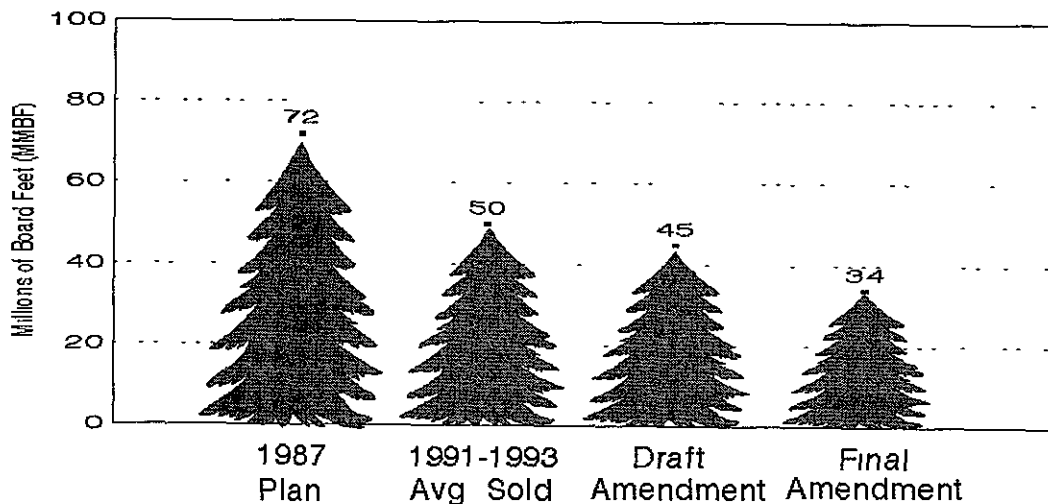
A reason for reducing the

ASQ is our response to national direction to reduce "below cost" timber sales. Therefore, we sell less timber from areas where costs are high and timber values low. These areas include steep, inaccessible sites and poorly-stocked, less-productive land.

In addition, the shift from clearcutting contributes to this lower timber harvest level. We reduced clearcutting from 4,500 acres a year to about 240 acres. In the short run, alternative harvest methods, such as two-aged management and group selection, harvest less timber per acre than clearcutting.

We conducted extensive field checks that looked at both economic factors and other resource objectives associated with ecosystem management. In response to these field checks, we lowered the ASQ to more closely reflect what could be sustained over time.

**How much timber will be offered?**





# Where can you contact us?

## **FOREST** **SUPERVISOR OFFICE**

National Forests in North Carolina  
100 Otis Street  
Asheville, NC 28801  
704-257-4200

## **NANTAHALA** **NATIONAL FOREST**

Cheoah Ranger District  
Rt. 1, Box 16-A  
Robbinsville, NC 28771  
704-479-6431

Highlands Ranger District  
Rt. 1, Box 247  
Flat Mountain Road  
Highlands, NC 28741  
704-526-3765

Tusquitee Ranger District  
201 Woodland Drive  
Murphy, NC 28906  
704-837-5152

Wayah Ranger District  
8 Sloan Road  
Franklin, NC 28734  
704-524-6441

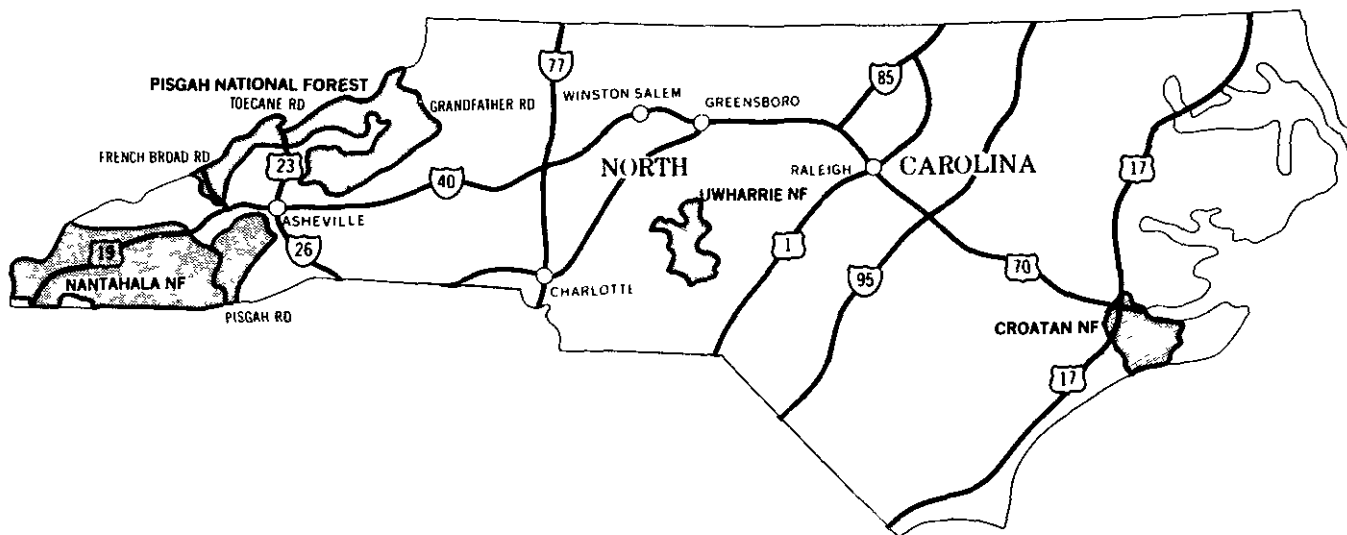
## **PISGAH** **NATIONAL FOREST**

French Broad Ranger District  
P.O. Box 128  
Hot Springs, NC 28743  
704-622-3202

Grandfather Ranger District  
P.O. Box 519  
Marion, NC 28752  
704-652-2144

Pisgah Ranger District  
1001 Pisgah Highway  
Pisgah Forest, NC 28768  
704-877-3265

Toecane Ranger District  
P.O. Box 128  
Burnsville, NC 28714  
704-682-6146



## For more information . . .

If you want the complete, technical documents summarized by the Highlights Document, please fill out this form and mail to: National Forests in North Carolina, P.O. Box 2750, Asheville, NC 28802 or call 704-257-4200.

**Please send me the following document(s):**

- ☐ Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Approximately 250 pages)
- ☐ Appendices to the Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Approximately 400 pages)
- ☐ Amendment #5 to the Land and Resources Management Plan (Approximately 250 pages)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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